AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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You can never have a greater or a less dominion than that over yourself.—Leonardo da Vinci.

Economic Security Bill Provides Job Insurance, Old Age Pensions

Collects Unemployment Benefit Cost from Employers and Pension Fund Jointly from Employers and Workers — Hundreds of Millions of Dollars Required to Finalize Plan.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—The Economic Security measure, providing for old-age pensions and unemployment insurance was presented to the House of Representatives after three months hearings and executive sessions.

As finally approved by a majority of the committee the bill would impose a payroll or excise tax for unemployment compensation which would begin at 1 per cent in January, 1936, and would reach 3 per cent two years later. For financing the old-age benefit plan, another excise tax would be levied on payrolls, beginning with half of 1 per cent in 1937 and reaching 3 per cent 12 years later.

In addition to the excise tax levied on payrolls for old-age benefits, an equivalent earnings or income tax on employes would be levied simultaneously for the same purpose.

Cost Estimates

The tax experts to the Ways and Means Committee estimated that the 3 per cent excise tax for unemployment compensation would cost employers about $480,000,000 in 1936, $600,000,000 in 1937, and approximately $600,000,000 in 1938 and each year thereafter.

The tax experts further estimated that the combined cost to workers and employers for old-age benefits would be about $200,000,000 for each group in 1937; $300,000,000 during 1940; $400,000,000 in 1942; $500,000,000 in 1946 and $600,000,000 in 1949.

Levies Increase Steadily

According to the terms of the bill, the rise and income taxes for old-age benefits would increase every year by half of 1 per cent, whereas, the excise tax for unemployment compensation funds would increase in each of the two years following 1936 until the maximum was reached in 1938.

In a recapitulatio nof these estimates the tax experts put the probable tax collections for 1936 at $200,000,000; for 1937, $800,000,000; for 1938; $1,000,000,000, and for 1940, $1,200,000,000.

These amounts would increase to $1,400,000,000 in 1943; $1,600,000,000 in 1946, and $1,800,000,000 in 1949.

Care of Dependent Children

In addition to these insurance provisions for unemployment compensation and pensions for the aged the bill asks separate appropriations of $24,750,000 for immediate old-age assistance; $24,750,000 for grants in aid for dependent children; $4,000,000 for expansion of the Public Health Service, and $3,800,000 for various maternal and child welfare undertakings.

Destitute aged who have reached the age of 65, of which the committee estimated there are approximately 7,500,000 in the United States, would be eligible for benefits.

MINE WORKERS IGNORED BY COPPER OUTPUT PACT

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Cornelius P. Kelley, chairman of the International Copper Conference, announces that, after many weeks of negotiations and discussions, the conference reached an agreement on limiting production of copper outside the United States and establishing uniform trade practices in foreign countries.

Last year foreign production of copper reached 1,120,000 tons. The agreement restricts this production by 240,000 tons annually beginning June 1 and terminating on July 1, 1938. This will mean a cut of more than 20 per cent.

The agreement announced by Mr. Kelley contains elaborate restrictions limiting production, fixing prices, abolishing unfair practices, and regulating the destructive policies which copper companies have used against each other. But nothing is said regarding humane treatment for the thousands of metal miners in foreign countries who will be disastrously affected by the restriction of output. For them the agreement will undoubtedly mean earnings reduced below the present starvation standards, all for the benefit of the stockholders who own the copper mines and the bondholders who live on interest coupons.

The principal American companies affected by the agreement are the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, which owns two large copper-producing mines in Chile, and the Kennecott Copper Corporation which also owns a large Chilean copper mine.

The annual report of the Kennecott Company for 1934 declared that during the year it doubled its profits, the figures being $5,719,854 earned in 1934 against $2,444,706 in 1933. A considerable portion of this large profit is coined from the low wages and long hours which the company pays the employes in its Chilean mines.

N. C. TEXTILE COUNCIL ENDORSES 30-HOUR WEEK

Durham, N. C. (AFLNS).—The third annual convention of the North Carolina Federation Council here urged the prompt enactment of the Black 30-hour week bill and the Wagner labor disputes bill by Congress and recommended the reopening of the NRA textile code so that local unions may send delegates to participate in the hearings.

The council also adopted a resolution calling on the Federal Government for relief funds to open textile mills which have been closed by employers to starve out workers. Paul Christopher, outgoing president of the council, said there were many of these mills in the Carolinas.

W. G. Watson of Salisbury was elected president of the council for the ensuing year. The annual meeting was attended by 300 delegates from various parts of the state representing 71 textile unions affiliated with the United Textile Workers of America.

UNION LABEL IS UPHELD FOR LABOR'S PROTECTION

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—"The Blue Eagle as a symbol of fair dealing has failed miserably in its application, due to the fact that the minimum wage, maximum hours and collective bargaining clauses in the National Industrial Recovery Act have been flagrantly violated by the employers," declared Charles E. Sinnigen, New York Representative of the Union Label Trades Department of the American Federation of Labor, at a Consumer Conference here conducted by the Educational Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

"The union label, if demanded by the consumers of our nation," Mr. Sinnigen said, "would eliminate the necessity for government policing of industry by insuring real collective bargaining, maximum wages and minimum hours of labor, through agreement with the unions, and, therefore, the unfair practices and demoralizing competition engaged in by the employers would be eliminated."

E. R. Bowen, general secretary of the Cooperative League, said "control of prices can only be the result of workers organizing as consumers into consumers' cooperatives as well as producers into labor unions." He referred to consumers' cooperation as "merely the economic application of the spirit and freedom adopted by America in our political democracy to the organization of an economic democracy."

WOODFORD AXTON, UNION TOBACCO MAN, IS DEAD

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Louisville, Ky.—Woodford F. Axton, president of the Axton-Fisher Tobacco Company, died at his home at Wildwood, near here, at the age of 43 of heart disease.

Mr. Axton was well known nationally in the labor movement for his support of union labor. The Axton-Fisher company, which is the largest independent tobacco concern in the world, has been a union label shop for a number of years. His factory recently joined the American Federation of Labor in support of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill, which would give a definite legal status to collective bargaining and outlaw company-dominated unions.

The usual practice of corporations of paying their executives high salaries and bonuses was broken by Axton, who said he believed the "take-out" of employers in such cases in most cases and that wage and salary rises should begin at the bottom. In conformity with this theory he always limited his own salary as president to $10,000 a year.

Efforts which Mr. Axton applied toward promotion of the welfare of his employes included free meals, recreation facilities and milk. Milk from cows for the free meals was from pure-bred stock at his model 1,000-acre stock farm at Wildwood.

SENATOR BLACK URGES LISTING OF LOBBYISTS

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Senator Black of Alabama firmly believes that all lobbyists before Congress or government departments should be compelled to register and report their compensation.

In explaining the bill which he introduced to accomplish this object the Senator from Alabama said in view of the enormous expenditure of federal funds authorized under the $4,880,000,000 work relief law some protection was essential and that his measure would provide it against the lobbying that has followed swarming into the White House.

The bill defines the lobbyist as anyone "who shall engage for pay or for any consideration to attempt to influence legislation or the passage of any federal bureau, agency or government official so as to give any benefit or advantage to any corporation or individual."

Paterson Offers Rent-Free Factory for Jobs Provider

Paterson, N. J. (AFLNS).—Mayor John V. Hinchcliffe offers the large factory of the Johnson-Cowdin Mill, which formerly provided a large silk factory here, rent free to any reliable company which will agree to give employment to between 500 and 600 jobless residents of Paterson. The property came into the possession of the city as the result of a tax sale.

Mayor Hinchcliffe also said that the property would be exempted from taxes. The only proviso is that the new company must not be a competitor of any concern now operating a silk factory here. He said the arrangement would not only take a large number of unemployed off the relief rolls but would also add to the city's income.

Hosiery Manufacturers Want NRA Code Extended

New York (AFLNS).—The National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers representing 85 per cent of the hosiery industry to write to the Senate Finance Committee at Washington and to their own Senators and Representatives urging the extension of the National Industrial Recovery Act for two years. The letter said the association believes the hosiery code has been of benefit to the hosiery industry and that chaos would result unless the code is continued.

Federal Trade Commission Hits NRA Ice Trade Code

Washington (AFLNS).—The Federal Trade Commission came to blows with the NRA by dismissing the case of the Purity Ice company of Lakeland, Fla. The company was charged by the NRA with violating certain provisions of the code of fair competition for the ice industry. The Trade Commission ruled the business of the company was not in interstate or foreign commerce and did not substantially affect said commerce.

Firestone's Scheme For Injunction Hit

Green Flays Rubber Company For Seeking Court Order Prohibiting Labor Board from Enforcing Section 7-A.

Claims Company Defies Government Tribunals and "Has Forfeited All Claim for Governmental Protection."

(Reprinted from April 6, 1935, issue of American Federation of Labor Weekly News Service Supplement.)

Washington. — District Supreme Court Justice James M. Proctor issued a temporary injunction here prohibiting the National Labor Relations Board from withdrawing the Blue Eagle insignia from the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, Akron, Ohio, as a penalty for the company's refusal to comply with the Board's order to hold an election, supervised by representatives of the board, to select a collective bargaining agency for the employes, and to withhold, until such election, company contributions to pay the expenses of the company controlled union.

William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor issued the following statement relative to the Firestone company's injunction application:

"The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company defied the ruling of one court created by the Congress of the United States—the National Labor Relations Board, but is endeavoring to secure the help of another court created by Congress, the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, to continue its flagrant and rebellious opposition to duly constituted authority.

Unclean Hands

"The Firestone Company does not come into the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia with clean hands.

"Because of its defiance of duly constituted governmental tribunals it has forfeited all claim for governmental protection.

"Those who seek the protection of the law and of government should be first required to obey the law and respect the instrumentalities of government.

"The Firestone Tire and Rubber Company is seeking a temporary restraining order and an injunction against the execution of the decision of the National Labor Relations Board ordering an election, is determined that its employes shall not exercise the rights and privileges conferred upon them by Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act.

Opposed to Secret Ballot

"They are determined that their employes shall not through a secret ballot decide by a majority vote as to whether they want the company union or their own independent union as their bargaining agency.

"Why are they afraid to risk a vote of their employes as to the change they workers want to maintain the company union fostered and financed by the company?

"The action of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company in this particular case offers the strongest possible argument in support of the early enactment of the Wagner Labor Disputes Act into law.

"Labor will concentrate all its efforts in an endeavor to secure complete and full compliance on the part of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company with the decisions rendered by the National Labor Relations Board."

TWO KILLED IN JOBLESS RIOT

Gallup, N. M. (AFLNS).—Eviction proceedings in the case of an unemployed worker resulted in a disturbance here which caused the death of the sheriff, a jobless miner and the injury of seven bystanders, including a woman.

A mob outbreak occurred at the conclusion of a court hearing for three jobless persons, including the evicted man, who were charged with interfering with the dwelling. When officers removed the prisoners from the courthouse to the Justice of the Peace, the melee in the street began. The mob group charged the other with opening the attack.

Deputy Sheriff Roberts swore in 125 World War veterans and, under an special deputies and called members of the American Legion to the City Hall as a precautionary measure. He distributed the outbreak to the Communists and was reported to have said that he and his deputies would round up every person suspected of being a member of the Communist party or The Unemployed Union, which he claimed is an affiliate of the party.

LOS ANGELES HOSPITAL EMPLOYES FORM UNION

Los Angeles, Calif. (AFLNS).—The first Institutional Employes' Union organized here, applied to the American Federation of Labor for a charter. The meeting was conducted by Frank Grillo, organizer of the A. F. of L., and C. J. Hynes, of the Central Labor Council Organizing Committee. A large number of nurses and employes from various institutions and hospitals were present.

LEGION WILL EXPEL REDS

New York (AFLNS).—The department executive committee of the American Legion in New York State adopted a resolution to expel from the New York posts of the Legion all persons who are members of the Communist Party or who advocate the use of force or violence to overthrow government. It was reported the resolution would be submitted to the national executive committee of the American Legion at its May meeting.

ROOSEVELT STARTS WORK RELIEF PLAN

Expects to Spend Most of $4,-880,000,000 by July 1, 1936, in Providing Jobs for 3,500,000 Now On the Dole.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—President Roosevelt began the serious business of administering the $4,880,000,000 work relief program by holding a series of conferences with the heads of various governmental spending agencies to draft a tentative allocation of funds among the various types of work to which the $3,500,000 now on the dole will be ultimately absorbed.

By the terms of the law the President has been given almost unrestricted authority to spend the big appropriation by June 30, 1937, to "provide relief, work relief, and to increase employment by providing for useful projects." Mr. Roosevelt stated, however, that it is the intention of the administration to spend all that is possible of the fund by July 1, 1936, probably reaching the peak of the operation by next November.

Earmarked Appropriations

Definite sums are specified for eight divisions of projects, with discretion given the President to shift $300,000,000 to various projects under a flexible provision. The allocations follow:

1. Highways, roads, streets and grade crossings, $900,000,000.

2. Rural rehabilitation and relief in stricken agricultural areas, and water facilities in semi-arid areas, soil conversion, irrigation and reclamation, $525,000,000.

3. Rural electrification, $100,000,000.

4. Housing, $450,000,000.

5. Assistance for educational, professional and clerical persons, $300,000,000.

6. Civilian Conservation Corps, $800,000,000.

7. Loans and grants for non-federal projects, $900,000,000.

8. Sanitation, prevention of soil erosion, reforestation, forestation, flood control, rivers and harbors and miscellaneous projects, $350,000,000.

Prevailing Wage Rate

Payment of prevailing wage rates on all Federal buildings constructed is required, but on all other work the wage rate will be fixed by the President with the stipulation that they shall not lower the rates in private industry.

It is also prescribed that not less than 25 per cent of the cost of state, municipal and other projects financed under projects, for which $900,000,000 is allocated, shall be spend for labor, with the power to determine the factors that comprise labor cost vested in the President.

To relieve certain forms of distress in agricultural communities the law authorizes loans to finance purchase of farm tools by farmers, sharecroppers, tenants and farm laborers.

13,000 DRESSMAKERS STOP WORK; WAGE RATE DISPUTE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—Over 13,000 dressmakers in 400 shops of the metropolitan area were ordered out on strike today, marking a stoppage to influence readjustment of work prices. This "stay-in" strike was ordered by the joint board of the dressmakers' Union after negotiations with the employers had failed.

The 400 shops are in New York City, Philadelphia, Connecticut and New Jersey. The concerns operating these shops are engaged in manufacturing what is termed "the $4.75 dress line." A similar "stay-in" strike took place in shops manufacturing dresses selling for $3.75. The workers included operators and finishers.

Julius Hochman, general manager of the Dressmakers' Joint Board, said the work stoppage was ordered "when it became evident that obstacles to proper work rates fixed in the union's agreement with the National Dress Manufacturers' Association, were increasing and no agreement could be reached." He stated the agreements call for payment to operators of 90 cents an hour, but that "little by little there has been chiseling until now operators in some shops receive as little as 50 cents an hour."

It was stated that a total of $1,000,000 had been collected from employers as penalties for violations of collective agreements in the last year.

Municipal Light and Power Plants Are "Regimented"

Albany, N. Y. (AFLNS).—"Regimented accounting with imposed wages on all municipal electric light and power plants in New York State by the Public Service Commission. Privately-owned electric corporations have been regimented in this way for a number of years with respect to operating property, income, and expense accounts, but this is the first time the Commission has compelled a uniform accounting system for municipally-operated plants, of which there are 62 in the state.

Orders Union Man Reinstated

Washington (AFLNS).—The National Labor Relations Board, in the case of New York Typographical Union No. 6 and Printing Pressmen's Union No. 51 against the Eveready Labor Corporation of New York City, ruled that the company had discharged two employes for influencing other employes to join the union and ordered the concern to reinstate him within six days. The unions charged the company with discriminatory discharge or layoff of these and other men. The charge was not sustained by the board.

BLUE EAGLE TAKEN FROM ST. LOUIS WAGE CUTTER

St. Louis, Mo. (AFLNS).—The Superior Forwarding Company here was notified of the withdrawal of the Blue Eagle in a decision by the Regional Compliance Board of the NRA at Chicago. According to State Compliance Director Charles Hodges, the case was sent to the regional board after employes charged the company with violating the wage and hour section of the NRA trucking industry code.

N. Y. SENATE PASSES JOB INSURANCE BILL

Provides $15 Per Week for Sixteen Weeks—Funds Raised by Levy on Payrolls.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Albany, N. Y.—Abandoning its resistance to the organized labor movement and Governor Lehman, the Senate finally passed the Byrne-Killgrew unemployment insurance bill already adopted by the Assembly.

The bill goes into effect March 1, 1936, regardles of federal unemployment insurance legislation.

Funds for the measure are provided by a flat levy on payrolls at the rate of 1 per cent in 1936, 2 per cent in 1937, and upward to 3 per cent. Charitable, religious, and educational institutions are exempted, from the provisions of the measure. With the exception of these three groups, all manual workers and all white collar workers earning less than $50 a week will be insured against unemployment.

Benefits will not start before 1937 and will not be more than $15 a week for 16 weeks. The reserves will be built up entirely by the levy on payrolls. The employes have a right to do with it what we want and to use it for our own best interest."

Dr. Alexander Lefkowitz, legislative representative of the Teachers' Union, opposed the bill as "putting children in competition with adult members of their own families when there is 25 per cent unemployment in the United States. He urged members of the audience through their legislative representatives, to do "for the children of backward states what we have done in New York."

The "unscrupulousness" of the opponents of the amendment was stressed by the Rev. Dr. Robert Wyckoff, general secretary of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, who said the two chief issues involved were the amendment itself and forcing the measure from the floor. Committee and private members of the Legislature on record with regard to it.

S. C. TEXTILE WORKERS ADVOCATE NEW WALKOUT

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Union, S. C.—A resolution "favoring another general strike in the cotton textile industry unless something is done to relieve the present situation" was adopted by the delegates to the sixth quarterly convention of the South Carolina Federation of Textile Workers here.

The convention also urged that the United Textile Workers of America "exert every effort to secure amendments to the Textile Code Authority, favored the extension of the National Industrial Recovery Act and the prompt enactment of the Black 30-hour week bill, the Wagner labor disputes bill and federal unemployment insurance and old-age pensions.

The convent of the Connery bill, now before Congress, which would prohibit the use of federal military supplies during a strike without the order of the Secretary of War, was also urged by the convention.

With regard to economic conditions in the textile industry the convention adopted a resolution expressing "full confidence in our national officers and our national committee and pledge our full support to them in their efforts in our behalf and our readiness to respond to a strike call to enforce the conditions on which the general strike of last September was called off."

DRIVE ON BANK ROBBERS STARTED BY GOVERNMENT

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—Edgar Hoover, director of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, announced the formation of a special drive by the Federal Government against known bank robbers in the United States, who are said to number 5,000. Mr. Hoover said that his bureau was "contacting the presidents of each of the 6,443 banks which are under our protection, asking them to cooperate with us." These banks have deposits of about $31,848,485,000.

It was pointed out that since the enactment last year of the federal bank robbery statute, making the robbery of national member banks or banks of the Federal Reserve System a federal offense, the Bureau of Investigation has investigated 116 roberies of these banks with losses of about $560,000. Mr. Hoover declared that 12,000 persons listed as public enemies by the Department of Justice, 5,000 are known to be bank robbers.

BRITISH BLUE LAWS,

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The attempt of the town council of Farrington, England, to enforce Sunday observance against the butchers brought an interesting retaliation. It has been the practice for butchers to sell their meats on Sunday. Citing a statute enacted in the reign of Charles I, which imposes a fine of £1.60, the council warned the butchers to stop their Sunday work. Citing the same act, which imposes penalties on those who fail to attend worship, the butchers threatened to bring a number of councilmen who do not go to church the number of times specified by the ancient law.

GOVERNMENT PIPELINE URGED

Austin, Tex. (AFLNS).—The creation of a state agency to apply for federal funds a $60,000,000 gas pipeline from the Texas Panhandle to St. Louis and Detroit was demanded by the Legislature by Governor James V. Allred. In favor of the project are the Texas Committee on Conservation and Reclamation reported a bill creating the Texas Natural Gas Corporation.

The project, which Governor Allred said federal officials had approved, would be eligible to receive an outright grant of $18,000,00 and a loan of $42,000,000 from the Public Works Administration and would be managed by a board of directors appointed by the Governor.

Security for the federal loan would be the project itself. After the loan was paid any profits would go to the state.

Rubber Companies Instigate Strike By Defying Labor Board's Decision To Enforce Section 7-A, Green Says

CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT IS URGED IN NEW YORK

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—The Emergency Committee for Immediate Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment held an enthusiastic meeting here in the drive for ratification by the New York State Legislature, where a Senate committee recently killed the amendment by refusing to report a resolution favoring it.

Langdon W. Post, Tenement House Commissioner, said the amendment is "the most humane piece of legislation ever advanced for a place in the Constitution of the United States." He challenged the opponents of the amendment to tell why a law which was good for New York State was not good for the nation, adding:

"Do they mean that the Constitution is a dead instrument to stand as a monument to the dead makers, or do they think it is an instrument for the benefit of those who are alive today? Those framers of the Constitution would be the last to say that it is a dead instrument. We have a right to do with it what we want and to use it for our own best interest."

Dr. Abraham Lefkowitz, legislative representative of the Teachers' Union, opposed the bill as putting children in competition with adult members of their own families when there is 25 per cent unemployment in the United States. He urged members of the audience through their legislative representatives, to do "for the children of backward states what we have done in New York."

The "unscrupulousness" of the opponents of the amendment was stressed by the Rev. Dr. Robert Wyckoff, general secretary of the Greater New York Federation of Churches, who said the two chief issues involved were the amendment itself and forcing the measure from the floor. Committee and private members of the Legislature on record with regard to it.

UNION ACTORS OPPOSE SUNDAY PERFORMANCES

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York.—Equity Association of New York City appealed to Governor Lehman to veto two bills passed by the State Legislature legalizing Sunday performances in legitimate theaters.

In opposing the bills Paul Dullzell executive secretary of the Association, said:

"Sunday performances have never helped theaters in Chicago and other cities where they have been legitimate and would not cure the ills of the New York theater. Musicians and stagehands can be staggered but not actors, nor would the one day of rest for 1,000,000 persons remain operative once Sunday shows are legal. In its appeal to preserve Sundays, Equity is joined by more than a score of important religious bodies which have gone on record against further secularization of Sundays."

STRIKE CLOSES MILL

Sand Springs, Okla. (AFLNS).—The management of the Commander Textile Mills here closed the plant after a conflict between striking members of the United Textile Workers of America and members of the company union resulted in a shooting affray Saturday and a dozen suffering bruises and cuts.

Mill officials and union representatives refused to comment on the attempt to settle the strike. George D. Brewer, international representative of the Textile Workers, was reported as saying that the strike was called by a union vote because mill officials had violated an agreement calling for the transfer of girl workers from the cloth room to the weave room when jobs became available. Brewer claimed that 60 looms in the mills had employed fewer workers.

7 CORPORATIONS REPORT 100,000 JOB INCREASE

By A. F. of L. News Service.

According to figures compiled from annual reports of corporations to stockholders, seven key industrial corporations increased the number of their employes by 21 per cent in 1934 compared to 1933. The reports show that these concerns had around $56,000 on their payrolls in 1934 as against $46,000 in 1933.

The following table shows the reported gains by companies:

Company.	1934.	1933.
Bethlehem Steel	*44,490	32,504
General Electric	82,542	74,000
General Motors	191,000	137,000
Pullman Co.	16,000	14,000
Pittsburgh Plate Glass.	12,047	9,985
U. S. Steel	189,881	172,977
Westinghouse Electric..	29,381	23,500
Total	556,341	454,466

*Daily average.

The trend indicated by the figures is contradicted in unemployment reports issued by the Federal Industrial Conference Board; an employers' association, which estimated the number of jobless in the United States at 9,393,000 in February, which is 0.3 per cent more than in February, 1933.

New Jersey Idle Relief Has Cost $123,308,705

Trenton, N. J. (AFLNS).—Governor Hoffman issued a statement showing that since the institution of emergency relief for the thousands of unemployed New Jersey has spent a total of $123,308,705.15. He pointed out that during the first two months of his administration the state paid 13 per cent of the cost and the Federal Government 87 per cent compared with 51.9 state aid and 48.1 in previous years.

Pier Workers Join Strike For Recognition of Union

New York (AFLNS).—Construction work on two piers here was almost suspended by a sympathetic strike of about 160 workers who walked out to assist members of two locals of the International Longshoremen's Association. Workers who were demanding union recognition and higher wages and hours of labor.

Lower Code Wage Imposed On Small-Output Workers

Washington (AFLNS).—The National Recovery Administration issued an order permitting employers in the hosiery and skirt manufacturing industry to pay piece-work wage rates below the code minimum weekly rates to individual operators or ironers certified to be of very low productive capacity. The order was in the form of an amendment to the code for the industry.

A. F. of L. Head Declares Real Issue Is Whether the Big Rubber Corporations in Akron "Are Greater than the Government and Its Constituted Authorities."

Support of Organized Labor Is Pledged for Strike Until Rubber Workers Win Justice from Manufacturers.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—A strong indictment of the big rubber companies of Akron, Ohio, for their refusal to obey Section 7-A of the National Industrial Recovery Act and abide by the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board created by Congress to secure the collective bargaining rights set forth in that Section, was made by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, in a statement regarding the threatened strike of the employes of the Akron companies.

When the strike occurs, Mr. Green said, it will have the enthusiastic support of the "entire American Labor Movement."

Mr. Green's statement follows:

"The strike of the employes of the large rubber manufacturing companies in Akron is imminent.

"The employes of the rubber companies which may occur rests directly with the management of the rubber manufacturing companies. They have refused and industrial cooperation with stabilization established through collective bargaining, if the management of the Goodyear, Goodrich, and Firestone Tire and Rubber Companies would permit their employes to hold an election, and determine for themselves the union to which they wish to belong, as arranged and directed by the National Labor Relations Board.

Labor Board Orders Election

"The National Labor Relations Board was created by Act of Congress. It is as much a government instrument as are the courts created by Act of Congress. The Labor Board heard all the evidence presented in the appeal of the rubber workers for an election, including the testimony and arguments offered by the management of the rubber manufacturing companies in opposition thereto.

"The Board ordered, after a careful and comprehensive hearing, that Section 7-A of the National Recovery Act, which provides for collective bargaining, must be observed by the rubber manufacturing corporations and that an election should be held under the supervision of the government.

Companies Defy Board

"The management of the rubber manufacturing companies defied the order of the National Labor Relations Board, refused to accept its decisions, flouted its authority and defied the law by word and action that no elections of their employes would be permitted as ordered by the Board, and that the Board itself would not be permitted to enter upon its duties.

Workers Accept Board's Decision

"The employes of these rubber manufacturing corporations have utilized the instrumentalities of the government in an effort to secure their rights and the free exercise of their rights. They were their case in the government tribunals created by Act of Congress, have offered to abide by the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board and have appealed to the management of the rubber manufacturing corporations to do likewise.

"The workers must now decide whether the decisions of the National Labor Relations Board shall prevail, or whether they must make an unconditional surrender to the management of the rubber manufacturing corporations.

Strike to Enforce Ruling

"Apparently the United States Government cannot force the rubber manufacturing companies to obey the decision of the National Labor Relations Board. That means that the rubber workers must do through a strike what the government cannot do for the decisions of rubber manufacturing corporations to accept and abide by the decision of the National Labor Relations Board.

Greater Than Government?

"The question as to whether these private rubber manufacturing corporations are greater than the government and its duly constituted agencies is the real issue which must be determined.

"Labor must know whether corporations are more powerful than the government.

"The time has arrived when the people of the United States should know and ought to know, if corporations can or will be compelled to obey decisions of governmental tribunals created by them for the purpose of determining disputes arising out of the exercise of the rights granted to them by the Constitution. The workers in Akron will strike for the enforcement of the decision. They will neither surrender nor compromise. Their case is one which is vital to American labor and in which the workers of the nation are tremendously interested.

Labor Will Support Strike

"When the strike of the rubber workers in Akron occurs for the purpose of enforcing a decision of a governmental tribunal, the entire American labor movement will stand as one body to give support. This support will be given to the rubber workers in Akron for as long a time as may be necessary in order to compel the management of the rubber manufacturing corporations to deal justly with them, to freely accord them the right to organize and bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to conform to the decisions of a tribunal created by the government of the United States."